AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter (where underlining "_" denotes additions and strikethrough "-" denotes deletions).

Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A system for facilitating communication between a user and a network of information items, comprising:

a remote data storage device for storing the information items, wherein the information items are stored in the form of pages, and wherein the pages contain a plurality of links to other information items;

a client device having a user interface program thereon, for allowing a user to interface with the network and request the information items;

a server device, in communication with the client device and in communication with the remote storage device, for handling information requests from multiple clients and for storing information retrieved from the data storage devices locally in a server cache memory;

a user authentication module for authenticating a user;

a data collection module for collecting and storing successive actions of the a particular authenticated user; and

a probability module in communication with the data collection module for calculating a probability for the desirability of the links by the particular user and for comparing the probability to a predetermined threshold value to identify predicted links and for retrieving the predicted information items associated with the links from the remote data storage devices and storing the predicted information items in the server cache memory in advance of a user the particular user's request for the selected information items.

2.   (Original)   The system of claim 1, wherein the probability module updates the probabilities assigned to the links with each successive user activity.

3.   (Original)   The system of claim 1, wherein the probability module aborts retrieving the predicted information items if the user requests an information item other than the predicted information items.

4.   (Original)   The system of claim 1, wherein the probability module continues retrieving the predicted information items from the remote data storage devices and storing the predicted information items in the server cache memory if the user requests the predicted information item.

5.   (Original)   The system of claim 4, wherein the probability module downloads the user requested information item to the client from the server cache memory.

6.   (Currently Amended)   A method for facilitating communication between a user and a network of information items, comprising:

    storing the information items on a remote data storage device, wherein the information items are stored in the form of pages, and wherein the pages contain a plurality of links to other information items;

    configuring a client device having a user interface program thereon, to allow a user to interface with the network and request a download of the information items;

    configuring a server device for handling information requests from multiple clients and for storing information retrieved from the data storage devices locally in server cache memory;

    authenticating a user;

    collecting and storing successive actions of the an authenticated particular user;

    calculating a probability for the links associated with the successive actions of the authenticated particular user;

    comparing the probability to a predetermined threshold value;

retrieving the information items associated with the links from the remote data storage devices; and

storing the information items in the server cache memory in advance of a ~~user~~ the particular user's request for the selected information items.

7.   (Original)   The method of claim 6, further comprising:
updating the probabilities assigned to the links with each successive user activity.

8.   (Original)   The method of claim 6, further comprising:
retrieving the predicted information items if the user requests an information item other than the predicted information items.

9.   (Original)   The method of claim 6, further comprising:
retrieving the predicted information items from the remote data storage devices; and storing the predicted information items in the server cache memory if the user requests the predicted information item.

10.   (Original)   The method of claim 9, further comprising:
downloading the user requested information item to the client from the server cache memory.

11.   (Currently Amended)   A method for facilitating communication between a user and a network of information items, comprising:

        means for storing the information items on a remote data storage device, wherein the information items are stored in the form of pages, and wherein the pages contain a plurality of links to other information items;

        means for configuring a client device having a user interface program thereon, to allow a user to interface with the network and request a download of the information items;

        means for configuring a server device for handling information requests from multiple clients and for storing information retrieved from the data storage devices locally in server cache memory;

        ~~means for authenticating a user~~

        means for collecting and storing successive actions of ~~the~~ <u>an</u> authenticated <u>particular</u> user;

        means for calculating a probability for the links <u>associated with the successive actions of the authenticated particular user</u>;

        means for comparing the probability to a predetermined threshold value;

        means for retrieving the information items associated with the links from the remote data storage devices; and

        means for storing the information items in the server cache memory in advance of ~~a user~~ <u>the particular user's</u> request for the selected information items.

12.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

        means for updating the probabilities assigned to the links with each successive user activity.

13.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

        means for retrieving the predicted information items if the user requests an information item other than the predicted information items.

14.   (Original)   The method of claim 11, further comprising:

        means for retrieving the predicted information items from the remote data

storage devices; and

        means for storing the predicted information items in the server cache

memory if the user requests the predicted information item.

15.   (Original)   The method of claim 14, further comprising:

        means for downloading the user requested information item to the client

from the server cache memory.

16.   (Currently Amended)   A network for facilitating communication between a user

and a network of information items, comprising:

        a remote data storage device for storing the information items, wherein the

information items are stored in the form of pages, and wherein the pages contain a

plurality of links to other information items;

        a client device having a user interface program thereon, for allowing a user

to interface with the network and request a download of the information items;

        a server device, in communication with the client device and in

communication with the remote storage device, for handling information requests

from multiple clients and for storing information retrieved from the data storage

devices locally in server cache memory;

        ~~an authentication module for authenticating a user;~~

        a data collection module for collecting and storing successive actions of

~~the~~ an authenticated particular user; and

        a probability module in communication with the data collection module

for calculating a probability for the links associated with the successive actions of

the authenticated particular user, and for comparing the probability to a

predetermined threshold value, and for retrieving the information items associated

with the links from the remote data storage devices and storing the information items in the server cache memory in advance of ~~a user~~ the particular user's request for the selected information items.

17.   (Original)   The network of claim 16, wherein the probability module updates the probabilities assigned to the links with each successive user activity.

18.   (Original)   The network of claim 16, wherein the probability module aborts retrieving the predicted information items if the user requests an information item other than the predicted information items.

19.   (Original)   The network of claim 16, wherein the probability module continues retrieving the predicted information items from the remote data storage devices and storing the predicted information items in the server cache memory if the user requests the predicted information item.

20.   (Original)   The network of claim 19, wherein the probability module downloads the user requested information item to the client from the server cache memory.